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The Report Has Another Champion

SHOULD WE NOT BELIEVE THE WARREN REPORT? By Stephen White. Macmillan. $7.95.

By JACK WARDLAW

The answer to the question in the title is a resounding yes, according to the author of this latest in the long series of books analyzing the assassination of President John F. Kennedy. Whether the reader will be convinced is another matter.

The book is actually an expansion of the four-part television series produced by CBS in June of 1967. It includes an even dozen references to New Orleans Dist. Atty. Jim Garrison, uniformly unfavorable.

White is rough on all the Warren Report critics, implicitly impugning their motives and often their mentality.

The author attacks the conspiracy theories, Garrison's among them, on grounds that they tend to be open-ended. In other words, they assume so large a conspiracy as to make impossible the maintenance of secrecy.

Writing with the benefit of CBS' extensive research on the more hotly disputed points in the Warren Report, White makes a convincing case in some areas, less so in others.

For a man who purports (on the dust jacket) to be a working journalist himself, White is extremely irritating when he gratuitously criticizes the newsmen who had occasion to cover the assassination story in Dallas and later. Just how would he have acted under similar circumstances?

Aside from an overly argumentative style, the book is well written, readable and, if you accept White's premises, well reasoned. Of all the literature on the assassination, White's book is the most cogent defense of the Warren Report this writer has come across.

Unfortunately for White, books defending the report don't sell nearly as well as those attacking it.